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SCIENCE

A WEEKLY JOURNAL DEVOTED TO THE ADVANCEMENT OF SCIENCE, PUBLISHING THE OFFICIAL NOTICES AND PROCEEDINGS OF THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF SCIENCE

FRIDAY, JULY 19, 1907

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MSS. intended for publication and books, etc., intended for review should be sent to the Editor of SCIENCE, Garrison-on-Hudson, N. Y.

LINNÆUS AND AMERICAN BOTANY[1]

I HAVE been asked to make a short address to you on Linnæus and his relation to North American botany. That the selection fell on me was not because I was the most able one to deliver such an address, for there are many abler men present, but simply because I was born in the same country as Linnæus. In fact, my grandfather came from the same province of Smaland and even from a parish adjoining that of Stenbrohult, in which my illustrious countryman was born.

In the early part of the seventeenth century there lived in Jonsboda, Smaland, Sweden, a farmer named Ingemar Svenson. He had three children, two sons and one daughter, the grandmother of Linnæus. On the Jonsboda farm stood a very large linden tree, so old and with so many traditions that it was regarded by the people as a holy tree. Any damage done to this tree, it was claimed, would surely bring misfortune upon the head of the perpetrator. When the two sons began to study for the ministry, it was natural that they should think of this tree in selecting a family name. They called themselves Tiliander; *Tilia* is the Latin for the linden or basswood, and *andros* the Greek for man. It may not be amiss to state that at that

[1] Address delivered at the New York Botanical Garden, May 23, 1907, by Per Axel Rydberg, on the commemoration of the two-hundredth anniversary of the birth of Linnæus by the New York Academy of Sciences.